

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 3 and 27 being independent.

Claims 28 and 29 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. These new claims belong to the elected species of Group I.

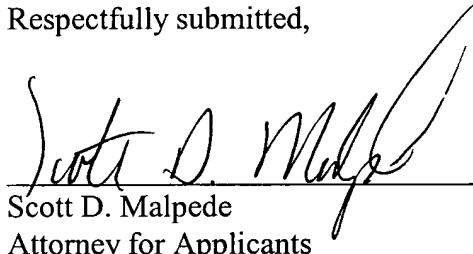
In that regard, Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement set forth in the Office Action of August 9, 2005. A careful review of the specification reveals that the various embodiments are closely related and do not require substantially separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither the Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study several separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. §809.2(a), Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Species 1, i.e., Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9. Accordingly, the elected claims, including Claims 28 and 29, and generic Claims 1, 3, 18, 19 and 27 are presented for consideration.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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